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DCP Control #6126
17 December 1956
[REDACTED]/evb

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DCP Members
Mr. Oliver Anderson, ICA/MDAC
Mr. A. V. Nyren, State/ECD
Mr. Leonard Pomeroy, State/MC
Mr. Edward Walinsky, Commerce/BFC
Mr. Stan Sommerfield, Treasury/FAC
Mr. Eric Rehfeld, OSD/ISA

SUBJECT : Reported Czech Procurement of Supersonic Drilling
Equipment Manufactured by Dr. LEHFELDT G.m.b.H,
West Germany.

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ATTACHMENT : [REDACTED]

CLEARANCE

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1. Permission has been granted to disseminate the information in the attached [REDACTED] report to the addressee agencies for BACKGROUND USE ONLY, classified SECRET/NOFORN. All other information in this report has been drawn from the International List descriptions or unclassified brochures and publications.

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[REDACTED]
Please advise this agency of the use of the information contained in this report.

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COMMENT

3. From the available descriptive material, the "DIATRON" supersonic drilling device would not appear to be covered under IL-1006 (deep hole drilling machines) or IL-1044 (combination lathe, drilling and milling machines specially designed for mobile military workshops or naval craft.) IL-1016 (internal grinding machines incorporating high frequency spindles, in excess of 60 cycles per second) might be interpreted to apply to this equipment.

4. The specifications given in paragraph 4 of the report appear to be consistent with those given in various brochures issued by the LEHFELDT firm. One of these pamphlets states that the DIATRON is capable of drilling holes of any shape in hard materials such as glass, diamonds, hardened metals and hard ceramics, but not in softer materials

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such as copper or soft iron. The drill tip, striking at a frequency of "several thousand times per second", drives an abrasive fluid, such as a suspension of boron carbide or of diamond dust. Since the drill tip is not rotating but is vibrating in a longitudinal direction, the device is described as well suited to make dies for small gears or similar components. According to an article in the 4 February 1955 Wall Street Journal, the device "can make holes with complex angles and contours in a single operation."

5. No price information for comparison with the report is available.

6. Dr. LEHFELDT, G.m.b.H., has developed and manufactures a variety of supersonic equipment, including measuring instruments, cleaning apparatus and dental and medical therapy equipment. Plant and offices are at Fuertherstrasse 150, Heppenheim (Hesse) and laboratories are at Wurzerweg 1, Marquardtstein (Bavaria). Photographs of the firm's products indicate that models are marked with following trade-mark device:



7. Directors of the firm are listed in the 1955 ABC der Deutschen Wirtschaft as Dr. W. LEHFELDT and (fnu) von MARJANOVICH.

The identity of the firm's Swiss agent is not known. U.S. agent is Curtiss-Wright Corp., N.Y., and French agent is PROMESUR, described as sales agents for measuring instruments and scientific and industrial control apparatus, at 23 rue Clapeyron, Paris 8^e, cable address "INGVISPA."

8. Commerce might wish to determine the strategic rating of the equipment. If further dissemination of this report is desired, we shall attempt to secure necessary clearance upon request.

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CIA DCP Representative

- 2 -

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